

may be disclosed under section 552 of title 5, United States Code. Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of such agency shall furnish such information to the Commission.

"(8) SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

"(9) PRINTING.—For purposes of costs relating to printing and binding, including the cost of personnel detailed from the Government Printing Office, the Commission shall be deemed to be a committee of Congress.

"(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section. The amount appropriated under this subsection shall not result in a reduction in any other appropriation for health care or health services for Native Hawaiians.

"SEC. 16. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict the authority of the State of Hawaii to license health practitioners.

"SEC. 17. COMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET ACT.

"Any new spending authority (described in subparagraph (A) of (B) of section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651(c)(2) (A) or (B))) which is provided under this Act shall be effective for any fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided for in appropriation Acts.

"SEC. 18. SEVERABILITY.

"If any provision of this Act, or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby."

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1929), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

STRENGTHENING ABUSE AND NEGLECT COURTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 737, S. 2272.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2272) to improve the administrative efficiency and effectiveness of the nation's abuse and neglect courts and for other purposes consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

THE STRENGTHENING ABUSE AND NEGLECT COURTS ACT (SANCA)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today is passing S. 2272, the Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act, SANCA. I

strongly support this legislation, which will provide much needed dollars to the Nation's overburdened abuse and neglect courts. We added to their burdens in 1997, by passing the Adoption and Safe Families Act, ASFA, without providing adequate funding to assure effective implementation. Courts nationwide are struggling to meet the accelerated timelines and other requirements of that legislation, which was intended to expedite the process of securing safe, permanent, and loving homes for abused and neglected children.

SANCA will help ease the pressure, by making available to State and local courts some Federal funding to assure timely court hearings and reduce the case backlogs created by the ASFA. Both the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators have adopted resolutions in support of SANCA. It is without doubt a good idea.

This legislation authorizes \$10 million over five years to assist state and local courts to develop and implement automated case tracking systems for abuse and neglect proceeding. It authorizes another \$10 million to reduce existing backlogs of abuse and neglect cases, plus \$5 million to expand the Court-Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, program in underserved areas. That is a total of \$25 million that would help address a very real problem that we in Congress helped to create.

In my own State of Vermont, the courts are committed to implementing the ASFA and reducing the amount of time spent by children in foster care settings. But they are having trouble meeting the Federal law's tight deadlines and procedural requirements.

My only concern with S. 2272 is the competitive grant method that it adopts for allocating grant money. By contrast, the model for S. 2272—the Court Improvement Project, or CIP—allocates money by formula. Congress created the CIP grant program in 1993, to assist State courts in improving their handling of child abuse and neglect cases. On an annual basis, each State is awarded \$85,000, and the remainder of the funds are distributed by formula based on the proportionate population of children in the States. This has been a highly successful program. States have combined CIP funds with State and local dollars to make sweeping changes in the way they handle child abuse and neglect cases.

Under SANCA, State and local courts would compete against each other for a relatively small number of grants, and many will get no help at all, even if their needs are great. I understand that there is companion legislation, the "Training and Knowledge Ensure Children a Risk-Free Environment, TAKE CARE, Act," S. 2271, which would authorize increased assistance for every State to help improve the quality and availability of training for judges, attorneys, and volunteers working in the Nation's abuse and neglect courts.

That bill was referred to the Committee on Finance, which has yet to consider it. It is my hope that the Senate will take up and pass S. 2271 before the end of this legislative session.

Many other important bills remain pending before this body as we head into the final weeks of the 106th Congress. I want to highlight one bill, which I introduced with Senators DEWINE and ROBB this summer, and which the Judiciary Committee reported by unanimous consent last week. The Computer Crime Enforcement Act, S. 1314, would authorize a \$25 million Department of Justice grant program to help states prevent and prosecute computer crime. Grants under our bipartisan bill may be used to provide education, training, and enforcement programs for local law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the rapidly growing field of computer criminal justice. Our legislation has been endorsed by the Information Technology Association of America and Fraternal Order of Police. I hope all Senators can join us in our bipartisan effort to provide our state and local partners in crime fighting with the resources they need in the battle against computer crime.

I commend Senator DEWINE and Senator ROCKEFELLER for their leadership on the SANCA legislation and urge its speedy passage into law.

AMENDMENT NO. 4209

Mr. GORTON. Senator DEWINE has an amendment at the desk. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for Mr. DEWINE, proposes an amendment numbered 4209.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend the authorization of appropriations for an additional year)

On page 23, line 4, strike "fiscal year 2001" and insert "the period of fiscal years 2001 and 2002".

On page 24, line 13, strike "fiscal year 2001" and insert "the period of fiscal years 2001 and 2002".

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4209) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2272), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2272

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Under both Federal and State law, the courts play a crucial and essential role in